

# OCTOGENARIAN ON FIRE, 2018

- *Vilma Ginzberg*

From Section 2, Watching the world from here... As a citizen:

## ABOUT NECESSARY EVIL

what a strange phrase, that:  
    necessary evil

my mind stretches, pretzels around  
    to grasp it

what evil could we possibly embrace  
    because we deem it  
    necessary

how about weaponry

to teach a man to shoot a gun  
    is a terrible thing

some said it was a necessary evil  
    to get food

to send that man to war to kill another man  
    is a more terrible thing

they said it too was a necessary evil  
    though I wonder what we got  
    for that

how about plastic

how about privilege

we insist on remembering why they are necessary  
but easily forget why they are evil

that  
is the most terrible thing